



# Good Neighbor News

For neighbors and friends of Keep Lincoln & Lancaster County Beautiful  
March 2013

## *Working together to improve our community's environment*

### **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTIONS START THIS MONTH**



Does your garage look like this? Nearly everyone has products in their home that can be considered hazardous, and many don't realize the danger some of these products present. Hazardous products - those that are corrosive, toxic, ignitable or reactive - can pose a serious threat to human health and the environment. Properly storing and disposing of household hazardous waste can reduce the risk these materials present to your family and community. The Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department has several strategies to help community members properly dispose of household waste. LLCHD's website ([lincoln.ne.gov](http://lincoln.ne.gov) keyword: household) has an array of educational material to help dispose of hazardous products in home. For products that are not safe to dispose of at home, the Health Department hosts several household hazardous waste collection events throughout the year.

#### **2013 COLLECTION SCHEDULE**

Saturday April 20th  
Wal-Mart South - 87th & Hwy 2

Saturday May 18  
Zoetis 601 West Cornhusker Hwy

Friday June 14  
Union College - South 52nd & Cooper Ave

Saturday August 24  
Veyance Technologies - 4021 North 56th St

Saturday September 21  
Lincoln Industries - 600 West E St

Saturday October 19  
Woods Park - South 31st & J St

Friday November 15  
Appointment Only - Call (402) 441-8021

All collections 9am-1pm

**Latex Paint Exchanges: May 18 & September 21,  
9am-2pm at EcoStores ([www.ecostoresne.org](http://www.ecostoresne.org))**

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### **FUNDS AVAILABLE TO CLEAN UP YOUR COMMUNITY**

Keep Lincoln & Lancaster County Beautiful (KLLCB) has funding available for litter cleanups in Lincoln and Lancaster County. These mini-grants are available to any organization - schools, businesses, families and rural communities are encouraged to apply. Cleanups must take place on public land areas including waterways, lakeshores, wildlife management areas, roadsides, community streets and alleyways. In addition to funding, KLLCB can provide trash bags and safety vests (on loan) for cleanups. To apply for a mini-grant visit [lincoln.ne.gov](http://lincoln.ne.gov) (keyword: KLLCB). Funds are available on a first come-first serve basis and are awarded based on the size of the area cleaned. Applications must be submitted and approved prior to conducting a cleanup.



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## DO YOU HAVE UNWANTED MEDICATIONS?

If you ask people what they do with unwanted or expired medication, a common response is the medication gets flushed down the toilet. Unfortunately, this is not the best way to dispose of meds. A 2002 study found low concentrations of medications in 80% of 139 sampled waterways across the country. The water samples included medications from acetaminophen to antibiotics to anti-depressants. Seven stream and groundwater samples in Nebraska were included in this study. In response to the health concerns posed by improperly disposed of medications, several groups across Nebraska have come together to form the **Nebraska MEDS (Medication and Education Disposal Strategies) Coalition**. The goal of Nebraska MEDS is to educate patients about proper disposal of prescription and over-the-counter medications. The program also works to provide citizens with the option to safely dispose of unwanted and unused medications at participating pharmacies. Currently over 30 pharmacies in Lancaster County accept medications as part of the program. For more information on the Nebraska MEDS project, including a list of pharmacies that accept medications for disposal, visit [www.nebraskameds.org](http://www.nebraskameds.org) or contact the Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department at (402) 480-1956.



Nebraska Medication Education for Disposal Strategies

## **VOLUNTEERS WANTED!**

Help make the Lincoln Marathon a litter-free event. The Marathon is scheduled for Sunday, May 5th and volunteer groups are needed to help pick up litter along the race route. If you are interested in helping or would like more information please contact KLLCB.

## **COMMUNITY CLEANUP CORNER**

*In each issue of Good Neighbor News, the Community Cleanup Corner will focus on a litter prevention or waste reduction issue that impacts the natural environment of Lincoln & Lancaster County. The topic for this issue is litter from plastic bags.*



Anyone who has done a litter cleanup in their community knows certain trash items are a bigger cause of litter than others. The all too common plastic bag is one of those items. In addition to littering our communities, plastic bags have other drawbacks. They are made from oil, a non-renewable and limited resource, can cause harm to wildlife and do not degrade in landfills. Of the billions of plastic bags that get used each year it is estimated that only 5% are recycled. The next time you drive through your community look around and you will likely see a plastic bag blowing down the street or stuck on a fence. Fortunately, there are easy ways to reduce plastic bag litter:

- Reduce: go without - if you are only purchasing one or two items, don't take a bag.
- Reuse: Start taking reusable bags with you when you go to the store.
- Recycle: Plastic bags can be recycled, and drop-off sites are available at most grocery stores.

These simple steps can help lead to a clean and healthy community.

## **KLLCB NEWS**

**\*\*In February the Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department hired Adam Rhoads as the new Coordinator for the Keep Lincoln & Lancaster County Beautiful program. Adam has several year's experience in environmental education. He has a degree in Natural Resource & Environmental Economics from UNL and most recently worked as Volunteer & Special Events Coordinator at Lincoln Children's Zoo.**

**\*\*KLLCB is an affiliate of both Keep Nebraska Beautiful and Keep America Beautiful. Recently, KLLCB participated in the southeast NE affiliate conference in Omaha, and will be attending the statewide affiliate conference this summer in Nebraska City. Learn more about Keep Nebraska Beautiful at [www.knb.org](http://www.knb.org).**

## **Keep Lincoln & Lancaster County Beautiful**

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